

## STEWARDS OF CHRIST'S WORK

### INCREASED OFFERTORY PROGRAM

This week you will receive a brochure detailing the Increased Offertory Program, sponsored by our Diocese, for our parish. This program seeks to help us to increase our parish weekly collection to be used exclusively for our parish needs. Next Sunday, **January 21 and 22**, you will hear a talk by a fellow parishioner on the subject of being a faithful Christian Steward. You will have an opportunity to increase your offertory gift. We encourage all parishioners to spend time in prayer and discussion with your family reflecting on the parish's needs and your current level of giving. We look forward to seeing you at Mass next weekend for this very important Commitment Sunday. Fr. Joe's homily for this week is an insert in this week's bulletin and is also found on our parish website under *Stewards of Christ's Work*. Please review the theme below for a fuller understanding of what it means to be a Christian Steward.



### Not Feeling OK? Pray!

Prayer is the key that sets us free to be **OK**. Prayer is the key that unlocks the treasure of the Good News.

What Good News?

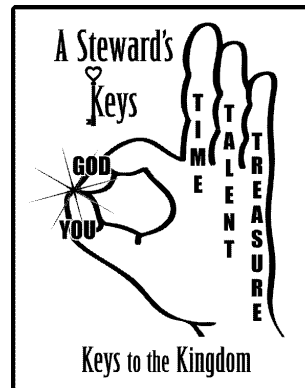
1. God is giving to us and gifting us whether we feel **OK** or not.
2. God is always working in us, in others and in all ways. We call this God's Providence. Prayer is the key to discovering the hidden treasure of God in all things.

### How to Use the Prayer Key Question

#### ***OK God, what's the Good News?***

- Look. Be attentive. Be honest. Be aware.
- Identify in what way you are not **OK**.
- Pray: **OK God, what's the Good News?**

- Reflect; look for God's Providence. Name what's good, gift (person, place or thing), blessing or hope in the situation.
- Thank God for those gifts.
- Decide how you will express gratitude to God through service for others. Act.



### Christian Stewards Share the Keys to the Kingdom

The hand gesture for **OK**, pictured above, forms an **O**, a **circle of mutual giving** as the pointer finger meets the thumb.

The **burst of light** symbolizes the moment in prayer when we give our **thanks** to God. God gives all to us (Providence) and we are invited to respond in gratitude by reaching out in love and service to others.

The **three fingers** extending outward toward others represent the **key gifts** that we share:

#### **Time, Talent and Treasure**

#### God Gives; We Give

A **Steward** is one way that Jesus uses to describe our relationship with God (Mt25:14-30, Lk12:42-48).

An *oikonomos* or Steward is the one in whom the master places trust by sharing responsibility for the care of all people, resources and work.

The circle of mutually giving love is the key and at the heart of what it means to be a **Christian Steward**.

The USCCB in their *Pastoral Letter on Stewardship: A Disciples Response*, write:

**"A Christian Steward receives God's gifts gratefully, cultivates them responsibly, shares them lovingly in justice with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."**

Finding the true treasure of God in all things takes some know-how and some real effort. God's

active Providence is Good News worth looking for. As Christian Stewards we search for, discover and uncover Good News with the key of prayer.

During the next weeks we will explore our relationship with God by using the **Keys to the Kingdom** to unlock the treasure of God in all things.

Pray with the Key Question and follow the suggestions in the column to the left and unlock your full spiritual treasure!

**OK God, what's the Good News?**

## **RCIA**

### **Journey with Us - Discover the Keys to the Kingdom**

Through the process of the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** or **RCIA**, we explore and discover the keys to the kingdom. **RCIA** is a restoration of the ancient practice of initiation into the Church. Through a process of discernment, spiritual development and ritualizing stages of conversion, you are guided to sacramental initiation. These Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist which are celebrated at the Easter Vigil open your hearts and empower you to lives of service, charity and justice as witnesses to our mission of *OPUS CHRISTI*, Christ's work. **RCIA** is not a program but a sacramental process. **RCIA** reflects a sacramental attitude that is at the heart of all Christian living: *CONVERSION*, turning your heart to God.

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN US!**

Our next sessions are Sunday, **January 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>** at **11:00 AM** and **Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 7:00 PM in the Russo Room. Make-up sessions will be available.

We invite you to be our companion on the journey. If you would like more information about **RCIA**, please call Donna Scancarella at [973-779-6200](tel:973-779-6200).

## **WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE AT ST. PHILIP**

**November 17-18, 2017**

If you have already made your Cornerstone (somewhat recently) and would like to be on our Women's Cornerstone Team, please contact

Donna Scancarella at [973-779-6200](tel:973-779-6200) or [cornerstone@stphilip.org](mailto:cornerstone@stphilip.org).

Our first meeting is **Wednesday, January 18th at 7:00 PM** in the Russo Room.

## **A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

Martin de Porres Village wishes to sincerely express their thanks and appreciation for the many beautifully wrapped gifts given to them at Christmas as a result of our Advent Giving Tree project. The parishioners of St. Philip directly participated in the Miracle of God's love at Christmas! *Brother Gabriel O'Brien, ISF*

## **TRIP TO IRELAND WITH FR. KEVIN: AUGUST 6 -AUGUST 16, 2017**

Dublin, Kilronan Castle, Roscommon, Knock Shrine, Galway, Killarney, Bunratty Castle, etc.  
For Brochure contact Long's Travel: [973-538-1700](tel:973-538-1700)

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES SCHEDULE**

**Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6:** February 5, 26

**Grade 2:** January 22, February 5, 12, 26

**Grades 7, 8:** January 22, February 12

**Confirmation Grade 9, 10:** January 22, February 12

## **MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

### **WIDOW/WIDOWERS**

- The Monday Night Group: **January 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 6:30 PM
- The New & Recently Bereaved Group: **Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 PM.

### **COLUMBIETTES INVITE YOU**

The Columbiettes invite all women 17 years of age and older who are practicing Catholics to an informal gathering on **Friday, January 20, 2017** at **7 PM** in the Molloy Center. Come and meet us to learn about our ministry. Refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, call Sharon Festa at 973-464-6608. All are welcome!

### **ST. PHILIP KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FUNDRAISER**

St Philip the Apostle Knights of Columbus 11671 are hosting a fundraiser dinner for Tom Fudali, one of our parishioners who is very ill and in need of our support. The fundraiser for Tom will take place at the VFW Post #7165, 491 Valley Rd.,

Clifton on **January 21, 2017**. Tickets are \$40 each. Please Contact Ray Lill at [201-618-3962](tel:201-618-3962) or Rich Donkersloot at [973-650-3327](tel:973-650-3327) for tickets or information. Donations are welcome.

**IN ST. PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

Seventh and eighth grade, "Genius Hour" science classes move into production phase as students create, engineer, construct, and test their new inventions and ideas. We look forward to the spring when the students will present and display their achievements. Visit our Blog posts in the school's main hallway near the office to learn more about what students are working on.

Quarterly Exams are in progress for students in grades 4-8 as the second quarter draws to an end. Grade 5 is currently working on a research project about their family history. The project culminates with a celebration during Catholic Schools Week when student invite a family member to join them in a reception to share their project results and learn about each other's family history.

Middle School is excited to announce its spring musical production of Disney's Aladdin Jr. We are looking forward to auditioning talented Middle School students.

SAINT PHILIP PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
**Open House**  
 Catholic Schools Week  
 January 30th – February 3rd, 2017  
**Tours by Appointment**  
 973-779-4700

**IN DIOCESAN NEWS**

**MARCH FOR LIFE**

The March for Life will take place in Washington D.C. on **Friday, January 27, 2017**. Father Michael Rodak will celebrate Mass at 12:10 PM at St. Peter's Church in Washington D.C. St. Peter's Church is located at 313 2<sup>nd</sup> Street S.E. See below for a list of buses leaving our Diocese.

PASSAIC COUNTY

**Our Lady Queen of Peace, West Milford**

Father Michael Rodak [973-728-8162](tel:973-728-8162).

MORRIS COUNTY

**Independent** (Buses leave from Shop Rite Rt. 206, Chester)

Andy Schlafly [aschlafly@aol.com](mailto:aschlafly@aol.com).

**Notre Dame of Mount Carmel, Cedar Knolls**

Rose Fanelli [973-428-8304](tel:973-428-8304).

**St. Mary, Denville**

Jim Rizos [973-627-2596](tel:973-627-2596).

**Our Lady of the Magnificat, Kinnelon**

Anthony DeLello [973-838-7897](tel:973-838-7897).

**St. Vincent Martyr, Madison**

Julie McGurn [973-408-9042](tel:973-408-9042).

**St. Joseph, Mendham**

(also includes St. Lawrence, Chester)

Tom Quaglia [908-347-3660](tel:908-347-3660).

**St. Michael, Netcong**

(also includes St. Jude, Budd Lake, St. Therese, Succasunna and St. Elizabeth, Flanders)

John Hand [973-670-7457](tel:973-670-7457).

**St. Vincent DePaul Parish, Stirling**

Danielle Dill [908-578-2712](tel:908-578-2712).

SUSSEX COUNTY

**Our Lady Queen of Peace, Branchville**

Parish Office [973-948-3185](tel:973-948-3185)

**PRAY FOR**

**THE SICK:** Joan Hughes, Silvia Berardo, Lara Buell, Ryan G. Micale, Jayce Mazza, Patsy Sinisi, Barbara Sikora, Margaret Sikora, Steve Kuchta, Sister Beverly Aiazzino, Linda Brady, Gus Perez, Joseph Villano, Marie Nattvo, Jennie Marto, Antoinette Van Setters, Mary Ellen Stanton, Alexander Bancey, Josephine Pipitone, Zigrid Roman, Derrick Medeiros, Maria Ligato, Philip Kutzenko, Susan Russell, Evelyn Wescott, William Steckowich, Ana Cabezas, Theresa Buhler, Annette Wanamaker, Daniel Marty, Alan Graf, Eileen DeMaio

**THE DECEASED:** Patricia Nash-Fitzgerald

PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: JANUARY 21/22, 2017			
5:30 PM	Fr. Joe	10:00 AM	Fr. Julio
8:00 PM	Fr. Kevin	12:00 Noon	Fr. Miguel

PARISH GIVING	
Total Sunday Collection: Jan 10, 2016	
\$15,758.00	
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CHRISTMAS COLLECTION 2015	
\$80,579.00	
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION 2016 (TO DATE)	
\$81,471.00	
January 8, 2017	
Envelopes	\$
8,626.00	
Cash	\$
1,216.00	

Online Giving Donations	\$
3,949.00	
<b>Total</b>	
<b>\$13,791.00</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection: Project Faith	\$
2,516.00	

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2017**

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- 8:00** All the People of the Parish
  - 10:00** Stephen Salerno  
Katherine DiNapoli  
Al Castrovallari  
Claire Jaeger  
Helena Lichk
  - 12:00** Charles Elbert – 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary  
Sylvia Fariello

**MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017**

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- 7:00** No Mass at this time
  - 9:00** Marguerit A. Handzo

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017**

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- 7:00** Bernadette Watson
  - 9:00** Robert Buell

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017**

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- 7:00** Helen Veliky
  - 9:00** Rita Marinello

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2017**

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- 7:00** Mary Newman
  - 9:00** Susan Sadvary

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017**

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- 7:00** Philomena DiStefano
  - 9:00** Michael Russomano

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2017**

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- 9:00** Gloria Kolodziej
  - 5:30** Howard Glinkin  
Margaret Schneider  
Mary Becker

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017**

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- 8:00** Michael Corradino  
Ronald Gorun
  - 10:00** Special Intention: Sy & Regina Kahn  
Vittoria Masucci  
Stephen Walsh  
Domenic DeBenedetto  
Marie Leather
  - 12:00** All the People of the Parish

KEYS FOUND IN CHURCH : U S ARMY
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